Regarding the second road, the Chief Engineer says that the people seem to have lost their earnestness in the matter. The Government are keen about the completion of that road.

The other point mentioned by the Member is noted.

80. Tiruvalla Market canal.

Mr. John Eapen (Member, T. I. C., Tiruvalla) first thanked the Government for sanctioning a sum of Rs. 19,665 for the improvement of the Tiruvalla Market Canal. He said that the work was not started, probably on account of the difference of opinion as to the best route the canal should take.

Dewan.—Final orders have been passed on the subject of deviation. The Government have accepted the route originally proposed by the Chief Engineer.

Member.—The shorter route suggested by Mr. K. N. Eippa, the Member for the taluk at the last session, would be more convenient, though the D. P. W. were against adopting that route.

Dewan.—In such matters, professional opinion has to be accepted.

The Member said that, whatever difference of opinion there might be in regard to the route, the speedy completion of the work was long wished for by the people and he prayed that want of funds might not delay the progress of the work. He requested that some provision might be made in the next budget for the execution of the work.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

81. Unsatisfactory condition of the means of communication in the Shertalai taluk.

Mr. C Kandi Mani Andrew Fereira (Member, Shertalai taluk) said that, though the taluk stood very high in respect of revenue to the State Treasury, the people did not derive any material help from the Government in the matter of affording means of communication in the taluk. The subject had been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Government at successive sessions of the Assembly. In the scheme prepared in 1082 at a meeting of the Members of the Kottayam Division under the presidency of the Chief Engineer, the need for public works in the Shertalai taluk was unanimously agreed to be very urgent. The roads for the taluk headed the list of works prepared then. It was regrettable to note, however, that nothing worth mentioning had been done till now. The taluk was far from being healthy. The heat in the summer season was intolerable. Even cocoanut trees had to be watered for more than 4 or 5 months in the year. Such dangerous diseases as elephantiasis, lymphatic or elephantoid fever and leprosy generally prevailed in the taluk. The contribution from the people of the taluk to the State revenue under Land Revenue, Stamps, Excise, &c., was not inconsiderable. The taluk was sandy throughout and locomotion from one place to another was extremely difficult, especially when the sand got heated during day time. The disease of elephantiasis was sure to disappear, if convenient roads were opened in the taluk. The want of means of communication vitally affected the education, agriculture, commerce and social condition of the people. As the ryots were unable to follow improved methods of agriculture, the lands became less and less productive. Even the touring officers did not visit the interior parts of the taluk for want of proper roads. Though the Government spent a certain sum on the Shertalai Canal, the work was abandoned subsequently, to the great disappointment of the people. The Member, therefore, prayed that the following public works might be executed as early as possible:—

(1) The following roads should be metalled and made cartable :—

(*a*) All the public roads in the Shertalai town.

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